

Pack Library Oral History Project

Marguerite Kimberly Carter

Interviewer: Peggy Gardner & Mary Parker

February 21, 2000 at Ms. Carter's Home on 27 Edgewood Road

Side A

Mary Parker (MP): This house was a part – it's on land that was part of the Kimberly Farms which Marguerite's grandfather – Dr. John Kimberly bought from David Swain in 1866. Dr. Kimberly has been a professor at Chapel Hill.

Marguerite Kimberly Carter (MKC): He went there in 1856 and they called him a chemistry professor.

MP: But he was a very versatile man with lots of different interests. And former Governor Swain – he was Governor first and then president of the University knew of his interest in agriculture –

MKC: Farming.

MP: Out and out farming.

MKC: He evidently asked many questions about farming that made Gov. Swain know about and suggested that he buy his property up here – which is the golf course.

MP: The University was closed because of the Civil War or he probably wouldn't have been interested in moving – or would he?

MKC: Well we have a letter that he wrote to his wife saying that he had been offered a job with a big chemical company. We don't know which chemical company it was – but he would have to go to Argentina – would she go? And we're here instead of Argentina – she must have said no.

MP: That is very fortunate. When he bought this tract of land it was really farmland and country and mountains. How far did it go?

MKC: Two miles from the village.

MP: Two miles from downtown – the Square I guess would have been the village. Had it been used – cultivated much of it as a farm or was much of it mountain land do you think?

MKC: I don't know how much of the present golf course and I don't know how much of it was cleared. But he did have wheat fields and an apple orchard.

MP: And there was probably a road that came out from the center town on what's now Charlotte Street, another one that went out Merrimon and Beaverdam – the earliest roads to this part of town.

MKC: Yes and when I entered the first grade and my Aunt was teaching at Murray (?) school so she took us on the street car to Murray Hill for the first grade.

MP: Down at the foot of Patton Avenue – sort of. Where were you living – which house was built first?

MKC: John Kimberly built a house for his family and I had a picture of it but I couldn't find it.

MP: That wasn't the house next door?

MKC: No. You know where 221 Kimberly is now? That's where the Kimberly's lived when they were on Kimberly Avenue.

MP: Was the road called Kimberly Avenue?

(100)MKC: E.W. Grove made the street after he bought the land and made 50 foot lots on both sides except the part that was closest to the golf course.

MP: Do you think in the very beginning that Merrimon Avenue Road going out towards Beaverdam would have been a major thoroughfare rather than the one where Kimberly Avenue is now? Thru the farm?

MKC: There wasn't any road from what E.W. Grove called Grove Park and that included Evelyn Place. And that creek that came along there is the boundary of the property south. They called the farm Glen Creek Farm and it touched Murdock in a few places. The Westalls down here bought their land –

MP: Was that part of the Kimberly Farm or the Swain property?

MKC: Yes.

MP: Then when was Edgewood Road built?

MKC: Well it was just a path – the streetcar came out Merrimon to Edgewood and the conductor would get out and pull the whatever those things were – and put it on the other end and then he'd go in and turn the seats.

MP: Turn the seats with a clank clank clank.

Peggy Gardner (PG): They just turned them the other way?

MP: It was like in Dr. Dolittle there was a creature called a "pushmepullyou" that had fronts and backs at both ends? I always thought that was the way those streetcars could be – either end could be the front for the motorman.

MKC: Down there they just had a path down to Merrimon Avenue. I remember being led to enter the first grade at Murray. It was soon after that – no it was earlier than that – 1866 – that John Kimberly came here. In the diary his oldest daughter wrote mentions that Papa built us a nice house and that's the one that stood where 221 Kimberly Avenue is now.

MP: Was that a frame house?

MKC: It was a family house. It didn't have a cook stove they cooked on the fireplace. I remember being in that kitchen one time.

MP: That house is not standing anymore.

MKC: It was torn down. I had a picture enlarged of the house but I gave it away.

MP: Somebody in the family probably has it. This house (on Edgewood) was built before turn of the century?

MKC: It was started in 1913

MP: And the house across the street?

MKC: That's when E.W. Grove –

MP: The house that's now at 221 Kimberly – was that the house that you grew up in?

MKC: No. In the early 1900s my dad built the house that is the second house down here on Edgewood. The bottom part is pebbledash – they call it stucco now – and it sat right in the front yard of this house that 's on the corner (?).

MP: That's the house that was moved.

PG: So they moved that one when Grove bought –

MKC: When Grove bought the property and was making a street. The time that they were moving those two houses next door they had three of us come out and watch. So I watched them and there wasn't a road, they had to take some trees down. They had big long poles like telephone poles that they rolled – a tractor pulled the house and it rode all those polls. When they'd get free of a pole at the back they'd be workers that carried it and put it down in the front again.

PG: Did you say there were three house they moved.

(200) MKC: Two

MP: That is amazing.

MKC: I have a picture of the house that was built after John Kimberly died. It was built by Rebecca their oldest daughter. She was the one that was born in Germany.

MP: I knew Ms. Rebecca. She was a mover and shaker. That's wonderful. I almost think maybe I would have recognized her.

MKC: Now they would walk to town and in this diary she speaks of walking to church. Even at night.

MP: That's two miles easily to Church Street. This would be pretty much ^{where} were the golf course is.

MKC: Right at the edge of the golf course.

MP: Before the Grove Park Inn was there.

MKC: Yes. See the roses, she's standing by the roses. I was told that anytime any of them walked to town they would cut a rosebud at the Charlotte Street where the Rose Bank cottage was.

MP: So there's were all the roses came from.

PG: And then they planted them right out here.

MKC: Yes and they had quite a long hedge.

MP: And they all came from Rose Bank which was an Albermarle Park cottage.

MKC: They would cut one – just that much – and plant it.

PG: Have any of those rose bushes survived?

MKC: I had one in my backyard for a while but it didn't last long after I came here.

MP: That's a wonderful story. Ms. Rebecca was the eldest and then there was Ms. Fannie and Ms. Mary and your Father.

MKC: Let's see if I can remember the dates. Rebecca was born in Germany – you know why they were in Germany? He asked the president if he could have a year absence – sabbatical – to study with Munson in Heidelberg Germany. And he was granted that so in early December he married, went to Nashville and was married and they went directly to New York and went by steamer to France. Both of them were deathly ill all the way, they tell us. He had to come back for the job by the first of January and they told them that the baby would not survive the trip back – it took 18 days and they expected to be sick all the way – couldn't feed the baby you know they just feed them by breast then. So she came back and went to her mother's in Nashville and stayed until November. You knew the ones that got the old Buncombe book together – they persuaded Grace (something?) and Sally to write up about the family. This professor at Duke – a math professor – he retired last year. His wife was related to the Kimberlys somehow. So he called Dorothy's number when she was living in Biltmore Forest and said he would like for her to tell him about John Kimberly. He found out that he did not graduate at Yale and we had just been told he went to Yale. I told Sally that he graduated from Yale.

MP: You know there's a marker to Col. Stephen Lee saying that he graduated from West Point. But he didn't – he attended West Point. I think that he went to Yale is pretty impressive. You know that's how history gets changed as it goes along.

MKC: He came down to Murfreesboro NC to teach at the boy's school – what's the name of the boy's school.

MP: You've got me on that one – I don't know.

MKC: I used to go there but I can't remember what the name of the boy's school was – let the phone ring if you can stand it.

PG: You have some other pictures there - who are they?

MKC: This is Elizabeth, the oldest girl in my generation.

PG: How many siblings did you have?

MKC: I was one of five. Four girls and one boy. Now this is David –

MP: Your brother?

MKC: Yes.

MP: Did he live in Hot Springs?

(300) MKC: Yes.

MP: He was a friend of Tony's. Tony Lord.

MKC: And Thomas Wolfe.

MP: Right they were all born about the same time.

PG: They were the same age.

MKC: Is that a house?

MP: That's a house – it's not the house next door is it?

MKC: Yes. That's the one that was moved.

MP: Look how tall it is – I don't know why it didn't shake it apart. It's a most attractive house.

MKC: The ones that have owned it and live there have done a lot of changes around it.

PG: Which house did you grow up in?

MKC: The second one.

MP: You mean this one?

MKC: No the second one that's down here. Notice the pebbledash – and when they sold it to E.W. Grove they built a house for us on South French Broad. And that was the place to have an address.

MP: It was. It was very stylish.

PG: How long did you live there?

MKC: Let's see, until I went to – it wasn't fashionable anymore. The place to be was on Montford.

MP: Did you live on Montford? I know about South French Broad being the place.

MKC: After Montford it was Grove Park. Mother made the family buy a house on Hillside Street. The second house from Merrimon Avenue going west.

MP: That's the house where I remember my first contact with your sister Dorothy. I think I was ten and she may have been eleven or twelve and Elvira Bryson lived next door. I remember thinking that Dot was the most glamorous thing – she seemed to be making her own decisions and we had to be moved around by our parents. So how long did you live there? That must have been about 1924 that I visited over there and Dot lived next door. When were you and Piercy (?) married?

MKC: 1931.

MP: And Elizabeth had married Dr. Shernheit (?) earlier?

MKC: Yes.

MP: And then your sister Mildred did not live here. Was her name Mildred?

MKC: Yes. Mildred. She was here for a little while after she graduated from Randolph Macon but she went- she graduated from Randolph Macon in the middle of the year and spent the rest of the year working at a lab in New York City. She studied chemistry at Randolph Macon. She was

married down here – she was one year teaching at Grace School –the sixth grade out here. That's when they had the sixth grade in a trailer.

MP: In the Thirties or earlier?

MKC: In the late twenties.

MP: The Westall house was built quite early.

MKC: (18)98 I believe.

MP: Most of the houses on Kimberly were from the early to mid-twenties.

MKC: Yes.

MP: Although the golf course was developed earlier.

MKC: I don't know when that was – do you know the date?

MP: The golf course? I don't know but I think the Asheville Golf Club was there – it seems to me they had a golden anniversary in my father's lifetime. My dad died in 1945. So I think that golf course – maybe I'm wrong about it being 50 years old....

MKC: Piercy talked about playing golf out there.

MP: It would have been long before Piercy's day, I think too. There's a house on Edgemont that was the clubhouse and Proximity Park was developed before Grove Park. Before Dr. Grove got started, Albemarle Park and Dr. Reynolds house at the top of Edgemont were in the works. When Dr. Grove really got going – of course the Inn was built about 1910.

MKC: It was finished in 1912.

MP: Probably Grove Park itself-your recollection of Evelyn Place being the end –

PG: Did you know of a riding academy that was up near Griffin Boulevard somewhere or some stables – do you remember horse stables?

MKC: Yes.

PG: Where were those.

MKC: I don't remember.

MP: Well the Inn had horses but if you're talking about before that...

PG: We saw an article that said they had been torn down and that they were at the entrance to Kimberly Heights. Kimberly Heights was -

MKC: Griffin Boulevard.

PG: Right. So I was wondering if you remembered that and if you knew where that was.

MKC: No.

PG: We couldn't quite place it there. Are you still teaching an exercise class I hear? How did you get so interested in keeping yourself young like that.

MKC: Well I didn't think about that.

PG: Were you a hiker?

MKC: Yes I married a hiker – one that had really hiked – by himself and with groups too. We started hiking with the Carolina Mountain Club.

MP: Did you ever hike or be involved in other ways at Rattlesnake Lodge up on the Ambler's Place.

(400)MC: Up at Bull Gap. Yes I've hiked up there quite often. More than once. I'd take non-hikers there because it was almost level all the way from the Gap.

PG: It's a beautiful hike.

MP: What have you got there?

MKC: This is the three aunts and my mother sitting on the steps out here – of this house. The one that's on the bottom step that's playing with the cat – she bought a pair of work gloves, heavy work gloves so she could play with the cat.

MP: Your mother is which one?

MKC: She's on the top on the left.

MP: That's wonderful. Is one of these Miss Rebecca?

MKC: Yes.

MP: Is she in black?

MKC: I can't tell. I can't see. Mary – or Mame as we called her, is the one at the very bottom playing with the cat. Fannie is close to her if I remember correctly. I can't tell what this is.

MP: This is another picture of the house.

MKC: Is this a flat boat?

MP: This is a flat boat – where in the world is that?

MKC: The creek that goes down the –

MP: Through the golf course?

MKC: Through the golf course. And the spring is right at the curve of the entrance when you turn into the club. It's right down in there.

MP: But Marguerite, this is so much water.

MKC: Yes but it's not very deep.

MP: But look – it must have spread all over the golf course.

MKC: I can't tell what this is.

MP: This again looks like it's a reflection of the mountain and if it's in that creek that creek was really something.

MKC: You could see the place where Grove Park Inn was built.

MP: It shows, I think in these. One would need to go look at the contour of the mountains but the pictures of the roses – you can pretty well identify –

MKC: I've got something written on the back of that and I don't know what it is.

MP: This is maybe – this must be the house across the street. It says "Miss Rebecca in front of 221 Kimberly Avenue."

MKC: Yes they used to have two great big evergreens.

MP: We always thought Miss Rebecca was sort of a part of our family.

MKC: Many books that are upstairs – I used to dust them, I quit because I found so many interesting things in the book that I never got through.

MP: This picture I think – shows the Grove Park Inn behind the shoulder of this person. See if you don't think that's what that is.

PG: That's the Grove Park Inn. So that would have been about 1913 or 1912. It probably had been just built.

MP: That's a wonderful picture. Would this picture reproduce like these have?

PG: If you made copies they would. Their still in good shape. They haven't lost all their detail.

MP: Do you remember who this stylish lady is in front of the Grove Park Inn? It's somebody in a really good looking skirt and blouse. The skirt seems to have couture – to far back to be you and to recent to be one of your aunts. Then below it seems to be a stone house either being built or torn down. Do you think that was here?

MKC: Well I have an enlarged one but Stuart ran off with two of them.

MP: Who did?

MKC: Sally's older son, Stuart.

MP: Don't let her run with too much stuff.

MKC: That's what Sally keeps telling me and for me to get a lawyer to write my will so if Kim gets married again his wife can't run him off and take over.

PG: That's probably always a good idea.

MKC: I haven't done it yet and they said "What are you waiting for?" These are pictures that the aunts had. That one where they're sitting on the steps I think I took.

MP: It would have been a long time back. You've had such good enlarged reproductions made of the ones of the aunts and the ones of the house next door it would be great to get one of the picture that shows the Inn in the background.

MKC: I should have dusted those but I didn't. That's the portrait of my grandmother – John Kimberly's wife. And that's John Kimberly.

MP: Weren't they a dashing couple.

MKC: They used to hang on the wall right there and the aunts gave them to Mildred who lived in New York.

MP: The portraits themselves?

MKC: The portraits themselves.

MP: Where are they now?

MKC: Their with Mildred's son. He was a doctor in Seattle and he's now working a sheep farm across from the bay that's right across from Seattle. Takes an hour and a half to get to Seattle from his house.

MP: With these beautiful portraits out there in Seattle? I hope their properly respected.

MKC: The aunts told him if you hang them you can keep them. But if you're not going to hang them send them back here and I want Marguerite to have them.

PG: These are beautiful. I'll hang them up for you.

MP: I'm really very sorry your aunts were so nice to Mildred. How did that happen – she was the third and she wasn't in North Carolina?

MKC: They had given me and the rest of us other things.

MP: Probably all this furniture at one time belonged to the aunts.

(500)MKC: And you see the different upholstery on the straight chairs over there? That's because I went around to the attics of the sisters and absconded with them. This was in my childhood home – those two chairs, those four and this settee – was always in my childhood home.

MP: Was your father a doctor?

MKC: No my brother was a doctor. No he (father) self taught mechanic. He could do anything and he liked to farm. He farmed down on the property near the river that is – most of it is the college property now.

MP: Had that been Kimberly property too?

MKC: Yes.

MP: For goodness sake. That really spread out.

MKC: Where they've got the track there was a three room house for a caretaker and my dad had grapevines all in there and vegetable garden and fruit trees.

MP: Is the stream that goes across here the same one that ends up over at the college.

MKC: No.

PG: It goes thru the Botanical Gardens? Does it come down from Glen Creek?

MKC: Glen Creek goes thru the Botanical Gardens.

PG: Yes it would go that way wouldn't it? All the way to French Broad. So your family owned property sort of along that creek. All the way down below the university down to the river?

MKC: Yes. All of Division Street.

PG: Right. I know where that is.

MKC: And there were little houses all up and down Division street.

PG: They were there until fairly recently when the University just torn them down. Who lived in those little houses?

MKC: Poor people. I remember giving them clothes – the boys clothes.

MP: Do you remember when there were greenhouses on Murdock? Mr. Elmo Brown had a greenhouse –

MKC: Yes.

MP: I think I remember before Murdock was paved. I remember riding horseback out there. And it was not much developed or much of a street. When was Raymoth (?) Road and all of that –

MKC: And Norwood Park –

MP: Yes and Norwood Park – when did it come about?

MKC: That was in the early twenties.

MP: Before even Kimberly and Grove Park. And Woolsey Dip was – Jack Westall had a wonderful story about Col. Woolsey and Col. Ray and the great rivalry between them. Both of them lived over on the other end of Hillside and Broadway but I think Col. Ray was the person who developed part of it and that's why it was Raymoth Road. We'll have to get that story sometime.

PG: There was a big Ray home at one point.

MKC: That house is still standing.

PG: Is it still there?

MP: Are we talking about Hillside?

PG: No Norwood Park. I'm not sure which house it is – I need to get over there and look. It's not far from here really.

MKC: You could see it from the bus or the streetcar up on the hill.

PG: Do you think that house is still there?

MKC: Yes.

PG: Where all did you go to school? You said you went to school on Patton Avenue, Murray School?

MKC: Murray Hill School. No it wasn't Patton Avenue it was Depot Street.

MP: Was it Miss (?) Simpson's?

MKC: No that was on Park Avenue. Murray was just above what was the Depot. Do you know where that was?

MP: It's interesting that they took you all that distance. Claxton didn't exist - but Orange Street did. The streetcar didn't go by Orange street -

MKC: No but my aunt taught at Murray.

MP: I can't remember why it was named Murray. But I know that there was some sort of Murray money that contributed to education. I don't know if it was significant enough to be recorded.

PG: How big of a school was it?

MKC: Just four grades it seems to me.

PG: For elementary school?

MKC: Yes. They didn't have a kindergarten. First, second, third, fourth and fifth.

PG: Where did you go after that?

MKC: To Ashland Avenue to sixth grade.

MP: You were still going a long way to go to school.

MKC: We were living on South French Broad then. The seventh grade was Randolph - it was called Montford Avenue School then. I'd walk there. Then eight they were building David Miller and we had a school where the Woodfin Street bank is. It was a private residence.

MP: Oh was that Miss Whets-her-name? That wasn't the person that Miss Annie when to school to - was that a private school?

MKC: It was a residence.

PG: Is that next to the Y there?

MP: Where the bank is was the old Woodfin House. It was quite a house.

MKC: We had the whole high school in that building while they were building David Miller. Then when we graduated it was from David Miller and that was high school - 11th grade - they didn't have 12 grades then.

MP: That's right. You were probably a grade or so behind Tony Lord. Tony would have been 100 this week.

MKC: Well I'll be 97 next month.

MP: And you're still leading that exercise class.

MKC: I was interviewed this morning – we'd finished our exercise and all and she wanted to talk to me so we got over in the corner and all the volunteers who do income tax were busy at a table

MP: So what did you tell that person this morning?

MKC: I just answered her questions.

MP: What was she interested in?

MKC: She had me do one exercise and took a picture. And I said "What exercise?" and she said "Oh any of them" so I did a shoulder stand.

PG: My goodness.

MKC: She said if it gets in the paper, I'll call you. I wore a dark suit but this wasn't showing.

PG: I like that. Her sweatshirt says "I am an intellectual. (I think)."

(600)MKC: I'm going to take the parenthesis off.

PG: Just mark through that. Did you go on to college anywhere?

MKC: I went to Randolph Macon. I graduated from high school in '21 and Randolph Macon in '25.

PG: What did you study there?

MKC: I think math was my major. That's because I had a good high school math teacher. She gave an examination and I made 100 on it.

PG: That's pretty good.

MP: Math was always so nice. It was so absolute.

PG: It is absolute.

MKC: I came back to Asheville and taught 4th grade 2 years out here at Grace. Our history professor in high school was the one – that's when the teachers were elected by the three representatives and he was responsible for making the those there – I think one of them was a woman, two men and a woman –

MP: Grace was a county school then wasn't it?

MKC: Yes. I went to New York City after 2 years teaching out there and studied physical education at Columbia University. I remember getting ready to go I had a permanent – in '27 that's when all permanents were –

MP: Hitched up to a machine.

MKC: Yes and when I registered at Columbia it was at a table in the park in front of some of the buildings. There was a line at every table, you know, and then it came my turn and they said "What's your name?" and I said "Marguerite Kimberly" and he looked up and said "Africa?" I blamed that on that kinky permanent.

MP: Did you like school in New York City?

MKC: Oh yes – could only stay one semester 'cause I didn't save more money. So I came home in February and that spring the head of the school board – what was his name?

MP: That's one I can't remember.

MKC: He called me over there – they had an office, the city office, in David Miller school in Asheville. (He asked) if I wouldn't teach physical education at Hall Fletcher and David Miller. One semester I'd be at David Miller and the next semester I'd be at Hall Fletcher. Only the three days a week because each school only had one gymnasium and the boys were all educated playing football and all of that – so I'd go up to those schools on alternate days.

MP: But that was a junior high school, those two were –

End of Side A

Side B

MKC: Did you know Carl Hiatt (?)

MP: Sort of. Mostly I now know the name. Wasn't there a Judge Hiatt and Carl Hiatt was about my age – my age is 10 years younger than your age.

MKC: He was younger than I but our high school had his first son be a class mascot. His little baby's pictures in the front of the Hillbilly of my graduating class.

PG: Was he dressed up as a hillbilly for the mascot?

MP: Might be. Do you have any of your high school annuals?

MKC: I think I've got all of them around here.

PG: Do you still have yours Mary?

MP: No. Somebody found one of ours in an antique shop and that hurt my feelings. Those are very valuable –

MKC: They are?

MP: Old records of who's who in the city.

MKC: Piercy and I's golden anniversary – what year would that be if we were married in '31?

PG: Is that '81 – is that the 50th anniversary?

MKC: A friend cut his picture out of the annual – the Hillbilly and my picture and had them framed.

MP: I heard a story yesterday about a person who's 90th birthday was celebrated with a birthday cake that had, in icing, a computerized picture of her at the age of 19.

PG: In icing?

MP: And then there were some cookies with pictures of her at age 10. I find this difficult to believe.

PG: It's like I have my color printer – I think now they can put the icing through and make it print like these color printers. It's pretty amazing – I've seen one.

MP: Well I would not want a picture of myself today in icing on a cake.

MKC: Not to have it cut.

MP: Well I don't know I just don't think it would be very appetizing. I think I like those annual pictures for a gala like a golden anniversary celebration.

PG: Where did you have your 50th anniversary party?

MP: Did you celebrate it right here?

MKC: I don't think we made a big to do about it.

MP: Just those pictures.

MKC: The kids – my son and his wife was living then, when I was 90. Sally and her husband Charles Thomason, gave me a reception here on my 90th birthday. I was standing in front of that urn over there when they all came in the back door. They had Stuart and Kim, that's Sally's boys, here moving the cars – everybody coming to the back door and they would move the car and park down on Westall Avenue. One friend said "Where is that urn that they all tell me that you've got here?" and I was standing right in front of it. I asked Dr. – he's retired now –

MP: Most everybody I know is retired now.

(100)MKC: He was here one day – he came here for something – and I said "What can I use that for? I don't like to have to dust something everyday that not useful." And he looked at it and said "How about a crematory?"

PG: It's rather large isn't it?

MKC: So that's where my ashes are going.

MP: Literally?

MKC: Yes.

PG: Well it would hold them without any problem. It almost looks like it would hold you right now.

MKC: Well Sally and Kim both say "I'm going to be in there too" and I say "Well be sure that I'm on top."

MP: Well who gets custody of the urn?

MKC: Kim, if he gets married again.

MP: Well that's one of those things you need to settle in the document with your lawyer about Kim's next wife.

MKC: Yes.

PG: Just keep passing it down.

MP: If Kim finds another girl as lovely as Rosalie, then I think that would be very fortunate.

MKC: He'd have to look a long way for that.

MP: He certainly would. If he did it once maybe he can do it again and then I'm sure that you and the urn and everything will be well taken care of. Now I'm going to have to go look at the urn.

PG: It's wonderful – I can see the edges of it from here. It's almost as tall as Marguerite.

MKC: That's something that the grandparents brought from Europe. I forget what year – I think I was told that they found it in Italy somewhere. And this comes off. (unintelligible)

PG: What is that made of? Marble? Alabaster?

(can't hear this part)

PG: We went to see the urn that you said belonged to your grandparents you and they brought it from Germany but you thought it was made in Italy.

MKC: I think that's the aunts – well you know when Sally was questioned "Where did you get your information about John Kimberly graduating at Yale?" And she says that I told them that I gave them that information – That's what I was told. I just assumed that he graduated when they said he went to Yale.

MP: That's a fascinating book. What's that?

MKC: This is a diary that Rebecca wrote. Marion Fisher has read it to me. It's very, very interesting. A lot of pieces are cut out.

PG: Did you make photocopies of it? Did you copy it?

MP: Has it ever been photocopied?

MKC: No.

PG: You might want to do that.

MP: (In the) Interest of history. Is it going to go to the Southern Historical Collection?

MKC: Dr. Warner who was a professor at Duke questioned Sally's article about John Kimberly graduating from Yale. He called Dorothy and Dorothy said for him to call me. And he wanted me to tell him what I've talked to you all about over the telephone and I said I can't do that. You have to come. So he and his wife came and spent the weekend here and I gave him the letters that John had written to Betty while she was still in Europe and the time that she was with her mother and father in Nashville before she came to Chapel Hill.

PG: Is he with Duke University?

MKC: That person was. And he's retired now. He was interested because his wife had Kimberlys in some of her ancestors.

MP: I opened Miss Rebecca's diary: "Sunday, October 10th 1875 – Sixteen years old today. What a lovely day it is. So calm and beautiful. This morning on my plate was a little package and inside a little square white box and inside of that a beautiful ring - gold set with five garnets." I think that's lovely. "I have it on my finger now. It is so pretty." It's beautiful script too.

PG: What year did she say that was when she was sixteen?

MP: 1875. So she was born in '59 in Germany.

(200)MKC: I have her christening dress. This is the mother of the wife of Steve Warner – to whom I had given all the letters. He transcribed each letter in big tape and sent them to me in a big envelope and I have them dated and all in the same place here in the house.

MP: It's a lovely little book.

MKC: She's the mother of his wife. And they gave me that. She has – his wife has died of cancer this spring she died. She was a descendant of my grandmother's brother.

PG: That's very nice. You have more letters in there?

MKC: Some of the letters that were written after she closed the diary.

PG: When she was older?

MKC: I found these in this box and they haven't been read to me so I don't know what they are.

PG: Do you think all of those are from your Aunt Rebecca also?

MKC: Looks like the same handwriting.

PG: It does.

MP: This is a report card of your father's. It doesn't say what the school is but it's June 20th 1884. For the quarter ending June 20th. He made 95 on dictionary and word analysis and 100 on chemistry, 95 on Latin grammar – imagine – 95 on natural philosophy, 97 on – wait a minute, maybe the 97 is writing rather than trigonometry, I think that must be OK. He was a very good speller.

MKC: We think he was in the school that's the 3 story apartment on the left on Edgewood at the top of the hill over there.

PG: That's near where I live now. I live in a farmhouse that's right before you get there, #210. It had belonged to a family called the Herons. Did you know them? I think they built the house in 1918. If you go up the hill, that apartment house you're talking about is up on the top of the hill.

MKC: Yes. It's the only three story building that you get before Edgewood crosses – what street?

PG: Well it's before you get over to the University there – before Barnard I guess is the next street.

MKC: Barnard.

PG: Yes. That was a school?

MKC: That's what I was told. I didn't find it in this writing but I've passed on a lot I was told that I don't know where it came from.

MP: This printed thing that says "H.L. King, Principal of the School," what year was David Kimberly born?

MKC: 1867.

MP: This is when he was 16 or 17 years old.

MKC: I was told that David went to Newton Academy, walking all the way from here.

MP: Well that was undoubtedly the thing to do.

PG: You have some interesting materials in here.

MP: This is really quite fascinating. This is a postage sized stamp water color.

PG: So you haven't read all those letters and you can't see them very good right now. You need somebody to read them on to tape or something so you'd know what they say.

MKC: I have all of what Warner transcribed from the letters.

PG: Was that the same batch of letters?

MKC: No not these. Those are upstairs. Can you walk up the steps?

PG: You don't have to get those for us. You can just tell us about them.

MKC: Well I've got them all hanging on the wall. I thought maybe you'd like to see them. I thought maybe you'd like to see the pictures.

PG: We would like to see them. We'll do that when we get finished here. Mary, did you have some more questions you'd like to ask?

MP: Well mostly no, just how the neighborhood grew, and when and how. And all the changes you've seen, I've seen plenty of them myself – you've seen a few more.

MKC: I like to think about the places that were the thing to have an address at – different places and knowing what destroyed the neighborhood.

MP: And the way the neighborhoods changed. My goodness now for a long time we've been really the central city whereas this was farmland and now it's what is known as a very upscale neighborhood, which is nice and I think we'll stay that way, although you've certainly seen Kimberly bear the brunt of an awful lot of through traffic. It's become a thoroughfare and there's almost no way to divert the traffic away from it. Even just the changes between here and the mountainside – Sunset and Patton mountain – since World War II – which as far as I'm concerned is really recent time – is extraordinary. Not to mention all the things that have happened up Beavertown and even further over the mountain. The enormous houses that are being built – I don't understand where all of the water, for instance, that all of those neighborhoods are going to need, where that's going to come from. There are no more springs on the mountainside.

MKC: The house next door – when it was down on Kimberly Avenue, they had a well right outside the kitchen door.

PG: You can see that in this picture. Do you think this picture was before the house was moved? It was in the first location?

MKC: Oh yes.

PG: You can see the well right there.

MP: Would that have been related to the spring that's still – during the drought in the 1920s I think - also the most recent one, I knew people who went down to that spring down there on the corner of the golf course to get water.

MKC: That was our main water supply when we lived in the house right here on the corner. They had a reservoir on the top of Kimberly Knoll and they pumped water from there to the reservoir and it came into our house by gravity.

PG: I hadn't heard of that one. Do you think very many houses used that reservoir?

MKC: Just the Kimberlys. There weren't any other houses. There wasn't anybody else then.

MP: I don't remember – the story about our house was that we had gravity flow water very early from springs up on the mountainside, so I don't remember any reservoir pumping – but that was not within your memory.

MKC: Oh yes I was about 10 years old when we moved to town from there – so I remember a few things.

PG: You'd remember that.

MKC: The tales that they use to tell. I got lost one time, they couldn't find me. They finally found me in buffet, the bottom of a buffet in the dining room eating – what do they call – homemade butter.

MP: A whole pat of butter? Churned butter?

MKC: Yes the churned buttermilk - butter. I was on my tummy in there eating butter.

MP: I think you were quite young.

PG: You were just a toddler probably.

MKC: Mildred was 2 years younger than me and it was before she was born.

MP: And Elizabeth was a little bit older.

MKC: Yes she was 5 years older than I am.

MP: Where is Grace Shernheit (?) now?

MKC: She's living in Sarasota, Florida. Her husband was so sick so long – they lived in Miami, he was a professor.

MP: Has he died?

MKC: Yes.

MP: Was he kin to her first husband?

MKC: Yes his brother. When they were looking for her first husband is when they fell in love but they weren't married until several years after that.

MP: She lived in India when she was married?

MKC: Yes for the first husband. No it was Afghanistan –

PG: They went looking for him? Had he just disappeared?

MKC: When they left Afghanistan they were living in San Francisco, I think – some city in California. That's when they had to leave India – he had lost his job. He committed suicide and they found him up in the mountains in California. His brother's wife had died – he was a professor of oceanography at University of Miami and lived in Miami.

MP: Then Grace came home and took such good care of Dr. Shernheit and her mother. She was a very – Grace could be a very funny person sometimes. She was an original, a character on her own.

MKC: The aunts thought she looked like their mother. They had her come out and have her picture made with Betty's portrait hanging right behind her.

PG: Was Grace one of your sisters?

MP: Marguerite's elder sister married Pete Shernheit who was the nephew of Dr. VonRuck (?) – and was a very good doctor himself too.

(400)MKC: And when they found the cure for the medicine to stop tuberculosis, he went to Europe and studied the heart and came back here as a heart doctor.

MP: Pete did.

MKC: Yes.

MP: Irby Stevens has written a wonderful history of the tuberculosis doctors in this part of the world and of course Dr. VonRuck is the Dean, who of all of those doctors, who trained and from whom the whole generation who made Asheville's reputation as a tuberculosis cure center.

MKC: They had their first sanitarium at that park that's just right there at Asheville School, out past west Asheville. Sulphur Springs was out there and that's Piercy, my husband, said I ought to learn to play golf. There was a golf course there and he took me there. I remember somebody gave me a short pair of golf clubs – I don't remember who gave them to me. Well the day he took me out to teach me how to play golf I beat him.

MP: Boy that probably turned him off of the idea.

MKC: That ended the golf too. It was Augusta Barnett. Did you ever know Augusta Barnett?

MP: Oh yes.

MKC: She gave me the golf clubs I remember.

MP: Augusta was quite a character. Was she at the high school – Augusta was the Phys Ed teacher– wasn't she at the high school for years? She was my neighbor on Charlotte Street and a very strong character. So there was no more golf – Piercy lost interest in you learning?

MKC: No more golf for him either.

PG: Did you go hiking with the Carolina Mountain Club?

MKC: Yes.

PG: Would you go every week?

MKC: Every Sunday.

PG: How many people were involved?

MKC: Well there were about 200 on the membership list but only about 10 or 12 –

PG: For each hike.

MP: Were you hiking when George Masa was hiking?

MKC: Yes

PG: Can you tell us about him, what you remember?

MKC: Well he was the one that marked – hiked pushing one bicycle wheel that had an pedometer – is that what –

MP: Yes. No – an odometer. An odometer is the thing that does the mileage.

MKC: Pedometer is when your foot does it. He's the one that measured all of these that's in the books, you know about how many miles....

PG: You helped him do the maps and everything?

MKC: Oh yeah.

PG: Did Horace Kephart go with you?

MP: Oh he was earlier.

PG: Was he before that?

MKC: Yes – before that.

PG: Did he take a lot of pictures with you? George Masa?

MKC: There are a lot of photographs of the hiking group. I still go to the annual meeting. There's usually a dinner – if some of the members remember that I have to be led.

PG: You should call them up and tell them. That's a great group.

MP: Did you climb Lecont (?)?

MKC Yes. I went up there in 3 feet of snow one time. We had a reservation, 3 of us, 2 girls that were – no a girl that was the daughter of a forester and a daughter of a friend of his. She made the reservation for Lecont. And this young girl that was a student at St. Genevieve's was hiking with us. It was May the 7th about 3 years ago I guess. We went from Gatlinburg up to Lecont and it started snowing when we got up after the first (?) and by the time we got to the lodge at 6:30, it was dark and the snow was 3 feet deep.

PG: Was that the huge snowstorm that we had? Only a few years ago?

MKC: Yes.

PG: Did you get snowed in at this lodge?

MKC: We came out the next day.

MP: I don't see how you could do that trail in the snow because there's so much of it that you clamber over rocks.

MKC: This trail was not rocky until you got up to where it's level to go over to the lodge. We came up this way – I usually go from Allum Cave(?).

MP: I've never gone that way. In fact I've only once gone up there at all.

MKC: What time of year?

MP: It was summertime and I was probably thirty years old – more than that maybe.

MKC: Well this was just 7 years ago.

MP: You're extremely durable.

MKC: Charles and a group take a break every morning and walk a mile or two around in the city. The next morning he was out walking and he happened to see a ranger in uniform. So he stopped, they didn't know each other, no names were passed – the said "If somebody has a reservation for the lodge, do they check the trail?" The ranger said "Who was that" and he said "My mother-in-law was supposed to be at Lecont last night and they tell us they got 3 feet of snow." The ranger said "Is she short and feisty?" Charles said he had to say yes. I think now about the time that a ranger might have classed me as short and feisty. One time we went up to Wagon Road Gap, it was in the fall, because I wanted to get some chinquapins. When we had been up there in the summertime I saw the chinquapins bushes and the chinquapins are in burrs-

MP: Like chestnuts.

(500)MKC: I said "I come all the way up here just to get some chinquapins and you've cut down all the bushes" I think it must have been that ranger.

PG: He remembered you!

MKC: He remembered me as being short and feisty.

MP: Are chinquapins kin to chestnuts?

MKC: Yes.

MP: Not there because the rangers ruined them – but are there still up on the mountains in the Smokies?

MKC: Yes.

MP: Did you ever eat chinquapins?

PG: I never have. I'd like to.

MP: There used to be – when the old road down to Old Fort went all curly down the mountain, just before you got to the town of Old Fort you cross a stream. And at the Asheville end of the bridge, across the stream there usually some children who stood there and called out "Chinquapins! Chinquapins!" – they had them to sell. In the early thirties when you'd drive to Chapel Hill we always called it the Chinquapin Bridge and hoped to find those people there. As I

remember sometimes chinquapins were almost more trouble than what you got from them. You would bite the shells, you took off the burrs –

PG: Were they hard to get off?

MP: I think maybe - those children at the bridge had already done that. Marguerite could do that. When they were ripe didn't the burrs kind of burst open?

MKC: Yes.

MP: And of course chinquapins were the seeds. What season are they ripe?

MKC: In the fall. Late fall. When the chestnuts are ripe.

MP: I think we should plan an expedition when fall comes and go look for chinquapins – we should check out that same ranger and say "Look did you leave any – and where?"

PG: They grow in bushes and they don't want them on the trails because they're spiky?

MKC: No, they made a larger parking lot and put tar down and cut down all the chinquapin bushes.

PG: That's too bad. We'll be on the lookout for some of those. I'd like to try those.

MKC: One time we were coming back from a hike out that way – out beyond Pisgah Inn and I asked them to park at Wagon Road Gap and let me look at Cold Mountain across the valley, one more time - I might not be able to get back up that far again.

MP: Is it the same Cold Mountain that was made famous by the best seller?

MKC: There's not much about Cold Mountain in that book.

MP: Well it was a good title. What did you think of the book.

MKC: It was a good story.

MP: I haven't read it.

PG: Mary we've got to get you to read that. You'd enjoy it – maybe.

MP: Well I would – I tend to go to sleep is my problem. Josie thought it was very good and probably very accurately done about the story of the return to the mountains after the war.

PG: I think it might have been. Seemed like me might have done some research and done a good job on it. I think that made a really good tape.

MP: And thank you very much ma'am.

MKC: I hope it helped.

PG: I have some release forms I forgot to bring from the library. I'll bring one and let you sign it. These tapes are supposed to go to the Pack Library just for people to listen to for reminiscences. I don't know that we're going to have a whole horde of people coming in to listen to them but that's where they'd be stored. I was going to ask you too – some of these pictures you have of that show the area before the changes came to it – at the library we have a huge photographic collection and we take pictures of other people's pictures – if you would let us - and just keep the

negative. Some of it I think would be quite valuable to them. They try to keep a record of how the community has changed and how the houses and things in there. When I come by and bring the release form I'll ask you if we can arrange to do that. We'll do it another time.

MKC: OK.

MP: I think it would be wonderful to have the view out across Sunset and the location. Particularly now since for a year we've had that 12 story crane over there.

PG: It just gets uglier every year.

MKC: Bringing those big trucks full of clay over here – we finally found out that they go over to Merrimon and out to Newbridge – where do they call it where they put all the trash?

MP: The landfill.

MKC: The landfill. I heard one just yesterday. Are they still digging over there.

PG: They're still working on that. It looks like it's going to go on a while.

MP: We saw a – well they had a little model up at the inn. They have a model of what the thing is going to be – it's a sauna and a super sports something or other – it looks like a Roman ruin.

PG: You might want to have another exercise class up there. It's going to be very fancy. What are they calling it – it's a spa I guess.

MP: It's a spa. I said sauna.

PG: I think it will have a sauna and probably everything else.

MKC: Well when the girls that are getting old drop out of my class drop they go to water aerobics.

MP: You go to water aerobics?

MKC: No they do.

PG: The drop-outs.

MP: It's easier. Do you have much attrition in your class or is it still pretty lively? How many folks come?

MKC: We had 8 this morning, 10 is usually our regular number. When it first started, it was started by a women's group at Central Methodist Church and they were just there a month before the summer came and they quit. So I just took over.

MP: Do they still have the sweatshirts that say "Marguerite's Girls"?

MKC: Yes. One of the early members got everyone to buy them. They had that in the paper – a picture of 3 of us with those shirts on.

MP: Very cool. I'm fascinated with Miss Rebecca's diary. When Marion Fisher read it to you did you get any surprises for comments from Miss Rebecca?

MKC: Oh yes.

MP: As I remember her in later life she was pretty outspoken.

MKC: Oh yes. The two younger sisters, Aunt Mame and Aunt Fame (?) called her "The Tyrant." Becky told me that.

MP: Did Becky know those Aunts?

(600)MKC: Yes.

MP: Miss Rebecca was one of those characters – like my great aunt, Miss Fannie Patton – that nobody would have dared call a tyrant, but the whole community knew to respect very much –

MKC: The Tyrant – I heard about that when Becky was born. She's in her fifties now. The two younger sisters, Fannie and Mary went to the hospital to see her when Dot had Becky. And their comment when they walked in the hospital room was "I hear you've named her for the Tyrant." So that's what we call Becky now. We call her the Tyrant.

MP: Becky Ste- (?) doesn't have any tyrannical tendencies does she?

MKC: No.

MP: That's wonderful.

MKC: I want you to go up the steps and see those other pictures.

PG: I'd like to see those.

MP: Is this off?

PG: I think I'll just turn it off – we're pretty close to the end.

Tape Ends